Proposal for a New IT Society Lecturer Award

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Background

• Andrea Goldsmith won the 2019 IEEE Eric E. Sumner Award. Congratulations Andrea!

• Andrea wants to give back to ITSoc by donating her prize money to endow an award for junior women at a time when it could be a real catalyst in their career trajectory.
Example Awards for Women

• IEEE Frances B. Hugle Scholarship
  – For undergraduate female IEEE members

• IEEE Communication Society Women in Communication Engineering (WICE) Awards
  – Outstanding Achievement Award
  – Outstanding Service Award
  – Mentorship Award
  – Early Achievement Award

• ACM Athena Lecturer Award
Proposal: Goldsmith Lecturer

• ITSoc Officers had detailed discussions and endorse the following plan.
• Use Andrea’s endowment to create a “Goldsmith Lecturer”
• Award will be given to a junior woman researcher.
• The awardee will give a lecture at an IT School.
  – Similar to the Padovani Lecturer, which was endowed by Roberto Padovani’s Sumner Award prize.
Eligibility

• The candidate must be within 10 years of receiving her Ph.D.
• The candidate must have achieved early career excellence via her research and technical contributions to information theory and its applications.
• The candidate may not have previously been a Goldsmith Lecturer.
Nominations and Selection

• The award will be administered by the Membership Committee.
  – Part of Information Theory Society Lecturer Program which also includes Padovani Lecturer and Distinguished Lecturers.

• Funds will cover partial travel expenses.

• Nominations will be received from an open call.
  – Nomination deadline: Early Fall of Year N.
  – Selection: Late Fall of Year N.
  – Lecture: An IT School at Year N+1.

• Selection of Padovani Lecturer and Distinguished Lecturers will also be updated to fit in this timeline and have open calls.
Benefits of the Award

• By highlighting technical achievements of junior women, the award helps them build their career and recognition.

• Award lecture contributes to the visibility of the researcher.

• The award helps increase diversity of IT Soc and IEEE, as women are an under-represented group in both.

• The award supports IT Schools both technically and financially.
Timeline for the Award

- Finalize the details by ISIT 2019 BoG meeting and present for a BoG vote.
- First open call early Fall 2019.
- First lecture in 2020.